

**Domestic Violence Commission Meeting
Minutes – February 11, 2011
Public School Forum
3739 National Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh NC**

Commission Member Attendees: Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson, The Honorable Sharon Barrett, Marisol Barr, Sherry Bradsher (representing Secretary Lanier Cansler), Jennifer Brobst, Lynn Bryant, Keith Sutton (designee of Gwendolyn Burrell who represents Secretary Reuben Young), David Elliott (representing Attorney General Roy Cooper), Beth Froehling, Janeen Gingrich, Dr. Peggy Goodman, Chief John Guard, Linda Holden-Cox, Cheryl Howell (representing Dean Michael R. Smith), Alisa Hunt-Lowery, Monika Johnson-Hostler, Jo Liles, Tracy Little (representing Secretary Alvin W. Keller), Deputy Secretary June Michaux, Dr. Beth Moracco, Steven R. Storch, and Ben Thalheimer

Guest Attendees: Tom Campbell, Cynthia Hill, Michael Lewis, and Ann Gerhardt

Department of Administration (DOA) Attendees: Mary Williams-Stover, Charlene Kea, Amber Woodby

A. OPENING/WELCOME – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

B. INTRODUCTIONS – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

Members introduced themselves and their affiliations. The Chair pointed out that the meeting would focus on agenda items. She reminded new members that the Ethics Act requires that they attend Ethics training within six months of being appointed. After that first training, members are required to attend Ethics training every two years. The question was asked at the December 10, 2010 meeting as to whether members have to attend a specific Ethics training. The response was that the Ethics training has to be one that the state offers. Any other training that is not state-sponsored does not qualify. The question was asked if the Ethics training was online now as of February 2011. The response was that the Ethics training is now online. If anyone needs information regarding the online Ethics training they could go to website at <http://www.ethicscommission.nc.gov/> or contact the NC State Ethics Commission at 919-715-2071 for more information.

The Chairperson also reminded members that they each are required to complete the SEI form which is also available online. The legislature made changes to the form in 2010 and each member must re-complete the form again before April 15, 2011. The form does not have to be notarized like before, and is easier to complete. The Chair will email the form out to all members. She stated that failure to comply will result in a \$250 fine and removal from your public position as a sworn official.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Karen Parker Thompson, Chairperson

The Chair asked if everyone had a chance to review the minutes from the December 10, 2010 meeting and if there were any additions or corrections. Since there were none, a motion was made (Beth Froehling), seconded (Dr. Peggy Goodman) and passed that the minutes of the December 10, 2010 DV Commission meeting be approved as written.

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Mary Williams-Stover, Assistant Director

The Chairperson announced that Jill Dinwiddie, Executive Director, could not attend this meeting due to her spouse's surgery and that Mary Williams-Stover, Assistant Director, would give the report on Jill's behalf.

- Mary thanked the Chair, Karen Parker Thompson for her diligent work on behalf of the DV Commission. She reminded DVC members that the Allocations Task Force had created a response to the Joint Legislative Committee proposed bill regarding allocations. The information was approved at the December 10, 2010 DVC meeting. The bill was amended by Representative Deborah Ross with the effective date to occur in fiscal year 2012/13 which will allow more time to implement proposed changes. The assumption is that the bill will be referred to a committee for further action this year and there will be time for additional input.
- Due to budget constraints the Council for Women office still has unfilled vacancies. It is uncertain whether the Council will be able to fill these vacancies. The Raleigh Office is down to 7 people. There are five Regional Offices serving 235 programs across NC. As a result of budget constraints the Regional Offices may be reduced to four, which will impact monitoring and oversight capabilities. There may also be a possible reduction in grant amounts.
- We would like to welcome our newest addition to the Council for Women, Charlene Kea. She has replaced Cindy Olsen and we are very happy to have her.
- We have submitted a proposal to Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation on behalf of the Displaced Homemaker Programs as there is currently a gap in availability of the new Osnium software to be used by all of the programs. The Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence programs plan to move forward in the spring of 2011 utilizing the new software which is a data management system. The Council for Women wants all DH programs to have access to this software to ensure we get the same information and reporting from all of the programs. The funding proposal will provide purchase of the software, training, and technical support for two years for the stand alone Displaced Homemaker Programs not covered by the NCCADV grant. The DVC saw highlights of the Public Awareness Campaign at the December 10, 2010 meeting. Revisions have been made based on your input. We need the support of the legislature in order to make this a public/private partnership. The Council for Women plans to move forward with informing people of this initiative and its importance, and attempt to gain support.
- Mary reported on the latest grant streamlining changes which will allow applicants to submit a grant application via email. Only one copy is required. This new method saves time, paper, and makes the process more efficient.
- Mary announced that June 11, 2011 is the UN Women's Conference. She encouraged members to mark their calendars for this date. Plans are shaping up and speakers have been invited. This event will take place at NCSU. Information on this event will be forthcoming.
- Planning is underway for the Governor's Conference for Women 2011. The website will be up April 1, 2011. This event will be held in Charlotte, this year. Celebrity speakers are being identified and invited to participate.
- The final version of the Displaced Homemaker manual is finalized and ready for distribution. She passed around a hard copy of the manual. This is a comprehensive guide for programs to use. This manual can be found on the CFW website at www.councilforwomen.nc.gov.
- The Council held its first video conference for the Displaced Homemaker Programs allowing them the opportunity to participate and interact without traveling. This method allows cross county communication while sharing and exchanging ideas.
- March 1, 2011 is Women's Advocacy Day. This event held in Raleigh is sponsored by the NC Women United. Lilly Ledbetter is coming and women are coming from all over North

Carolina to meet their legislators and address policy issues affecting women and children in their communities.

- The Council for Women will host an Open House on March 1, 2011 from 12-5pm. In conjunction with Women's Advocacy Day. Information on this event will be forthcoming. Members should mark their calendars.
- March 30, 2011 is the Women's History Month Celebration. Amber Woodby, the Council for Women Intern, has been assisting with details for this event which focuses on women who have broken through the STEM ceiling in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. More information on this event will be forthcoming but members should mark their calendars and plan to attend.
- Drive down Blount Street and you'll see a new sign! It is purple and it tells you who we are (the NC Council for Women). For the first time, The Council for Women has a sign announcing our location.

A question was raised regarding the Public Awareness Campaign funding support and whether it is state or federal funding. Concern was expressed that due to the budget constraints, monies not be taken away from the programs to support the campaign. Mary indicated that she would take the concerns and forward them to Jill Dinwiddie. Karen Parker Thompson also responded that this issue had been discussed in the campaign planning meeting.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

➤ **AD-HOC Allocations Task Force - Karen Parker Thompson, Chair**

Chair Parker-Thompson noted that recommendations approved at the December DVC meeting were forwarded to the Joint Legislative Committee for review. That committee initiated a draft bill in Jan. 2011. Based on the draft bill, Karen responded with the approved recommendations from the feedback the DVC had provided previously. She will continue monitoring this throughout the legislative session. If anyone wants to receive updates from the Allocations Task Force, please let her know. The current draft bill is looking at a population method. A question was raised if the draft bill had a number yet. The response was it is in draft form and a bill number has not been assigned yet.

➤ **Victim Services - Lynn Bryant**

Lynn Bryant stated that this committee has not met yet due to the holidays. At the end of the DV Commission meeting she asked if her committee members could meet briefly.

➤ **Abuser Treatment – Jo Liles**

The Abuser Treatment Program Committee met in January 2011 and addressed the following issues: meeting schedules for 2011, recertification process changes, online ATPs, and the Best Practices Handbook. Jo distributed handouts, one of which provided a summary of notes regarding these addressed topics and one which provided a summary of notes for December 2010 since the committee did not meet that month.

➤ **Law Enforcement & Pro Arrest – John Guard**

John stated that the group has not met yet for this year. He talked about issues related to pre-trial release. He gave statistics from a study on homicides occurring during pre-trial release and the rate is 26 percent. Based on the study, the state is able to expand law enforcement powers on pre-trial release and structure sentencing for all crimes. Nothing has been drafted at this time.

➤ **Workplace Violence – David Elliot**

David stated the group has not met yet. He stated the committee talked about doing a statewide conference to raise awareness and get information out. He also stated that the committee presented the workplace violence training to the AG's office for discussion. A question was raised regarding whether this would be the first time for a conference? The response from David was that it was not.

➤ **Professional Education – Dr. Peggy Goodman**

Dr. Goodman stated she had no report for this meeting.

➤ **Legislative – Judge Beverly Scarlett**

The Chair stated Judge Scarlett could not be here today. A report will be given at next meeting.

F. SPECIAL REPORT – SURVIVOR TO SURVIVOR – Janeen Gingrich and Cynthia Hill

- There was a power point presentation presented on this unique website tool. Work on the project began in 2003.
- Janeen Gingrich stated that the presentation to the DV Commission would demonstrate how to utilize the website.
- The website consists of interviews of survivors telling their stories and technical information about domestic violence provided by experts. Funding sources for the project are NC Governors Crime Commission, Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, and the Southern Documentary Fund.
- There are nine people on the Advisory Team in addition to Janeen Gingrich.
- Cynthia Hill, the video producer, stated there are 18 short segments with videos covering different topics. The goal was to provide information segments that would work together and provide comprehensive information with links to different resources.
- Janeen Gingrich encouraged DV Commission member to visit the website at www.survivortosurvivor.org.

A question was asked about safety features on the website. The response was that it does. Janeen stated that they've applied for money through Z Smith Reynolds for upkeep of the website. The DV Commission commended Janeen and Cynthia on an excellent presentation. A recommendation was made to utilize this website and approach as part of the Public Awareness Campaign.

G. SPECIAL REPORT – ABUSER TREATMENT PROGRAM – Jo Liles

Jo Liles distributed a letter to the Abuser Treatment (NCPAT) committee regarding a request for a change in terminology from Abuser Treatment to Batterer Intervention. Jo asked for feedback from the DV Commission. It was decided by the DV Commission not to make a decision at this time.

H. SPECIAL REPORT – 50B CLEAN UP PROJECT – Cheryl Howell

Cheryl began by stating that Judge Scarlett has asked the subcommittee to take a look at the 50B statute. The purpose is to make the procedures in the statute like the procedure in the courtroom, as the procedure in the statute differs from procedures used within the courts. We are tasked with making the procedure more clear and user friendly. The committee is making its way through the statute. The deadline for this task is the end of March 2011. We have received several requests from groups to review the 50B statute clean up before it gets presented to the

General Assembly. An example of things that are being worked on are: the definition for harassment has been moved to the statute for quick referencing by the judge; custody issues; and language issues.

I SPECIAL REPORT – DISPLACED HOMEMAKER PROGRAM – Ann Gerhardt

Ann Gerhardt, the Executive Director of The Women's Center of Orange County, spoke about what her Displaced Homemaker Program offered. She distributed a brief description of the services offered by the DH program of Orange County. Ann stated that the program has been in its present location since 1976. There are 13 dual programs in North Carolina. Ms. Gerhardt's Displaced Homemaker program is not a dual program. The Orange County DV program is located right next door to the Women's Center in Downtown Chapel Hill. Other DH programs reside in Community Colleges for better access to Education. Currently there is one DH program in the YMCA. In all, there are a total of 35 DH programs in NC. The Women's Center of Orange County services are based on the needs of the surrounding community. They have career counselors on staff, skilled with creating resumes to reflect knowledge and skills. They provide free income tax services as well. Also, the Women's Center of Orange County provides educational assistance. They just kicked off a pilot program, "Financial Coaching Setting" with the help of SunTrust Bank, and they have just recently received approval and obtained facilitators to begin a community legal project with UNC to assist with legal issues such as separation/divorce.

The DH Practical Manual was passed out so that Ann could demonstrate the mechanics of this manual, which is now online. There is a link on the Council for Women website as well. Amber Woodby, the CFW Intern, assisted with this project. This manual will serve as a guide for the DH programs in North Carolina. Ann stated that as a way to save money, it was agreed that we would be communicating via teleconferencing and email would be encouraged going forward. They did a survey and the feedback about teleconferencing was very positive. Last, Ann and Mary stated that DH programs are vital support tools for women in need of these services, so please support the programs.

A question was raised regarding whether persons could get services without providing North Carolina identification? The response was that they must provide identification whether it is NC or another state. Jo Liles asked a question regarding how women find out about the programs. Mary's response was that the DH Manual talks about good marketing practices using the Regional Directors and the CFW website. Ann stated that her program works with Dept. of Social Services and Inter-Faith Council and the Community Colleges all of which refer clients to the DH program. Karen raised a question about the basic requirements across the state for the DH programs. Ann's response was that the DH programs offer job counseling, financial management services, and educational counseling. All of these services are offered at no cost to those in the program.

MEETING ADJOURNED –

Chairperson Karen Parker Thompson thanked everyone for coming and for all their support. She also advised any committees that wanted to meet briefly after this meeting could do so in

this conference room until 2:00pm. Meeting adjourned at 1:00pm.